IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

h8 1. (Amended) An isolated and purified retrotransposon comprising the gag and pol ORF in the same phase and found as an extrachromosomal DNA molecule having a copy number of 40-150 free DNA copies per cell.

h9 4. (Amended) A retrotransposon according to claim 1 which is isolated from fungi or yeast.

5. (Amended) A retrotransposon comprising the genetic material encoding at least one polypeptide positioned between at least two long terminal repeats, wherein the retrotransposon is present at a copy number of between 40-150 free DNA copies of itself per cell, and wherein the free DNA copies are capable of integrating into the DNA of a host genome.

6. (Amended) A retrotransposon according to claim 5 which is isolated from fungi or yeast.

h10 9. (Amended) A transposable element for introducing a desired DNA sequence into the genome of a cell, having the sequence identified in SEQ ID NO: 3 comprising an internal domain for receiving a nucleotide sequence encoding a desired protein, said internal domain comprising the gag and pol ORF in the same phase and flanked by two terminal repeat regions.

10. (Amended) A DNA transfer construct comprising:

a) a transposable element for introducing a desired DNA sequence into the genome of a cell, having the sequence identified in SEQ ID NO: 3 comprising an internal domain for receiving a nucleotide sequence encoding a desired protein, said internal domain comprising the gag and pol ORF in the same phase and flanked by two terminal repeat regions, said transposable element being capable of integrating into the genome of a cell in the presence of an integration factor; and

b) an integration factor.

h11 12. (Amended) An isolated and purified retrotransposon comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) A nucleotide sequence with at least 65% similarity with the LTR and POL region SEQ ID NO: 3; and

(c) A nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 3.

17. (Amended) A carrier construct comprising the retrotransposon of claim 1, 5 or 12.

18. (Amended) A transformation and expression construct for fungi or yeast or *Candida* comprising a retrotransposon of claim 1, 5 or 12.

19. (Amended) A nucleic acid fragment selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence positioned between at least two terminal repeats of the sequence of pCal as described in GenBank accession number AF007776;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence with at least 65% similarity with the LTR and POL region of the sequence of (a); and

(c) a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of (a).

21. (Amended) A nucleic acid fragment according to claim 19 in which the nucleic acid sequence comprises two long terminal direct repeats flanking a series of genes in the order gag (group antigen), pol (polyprotein) where the pol sequence comprises an aspartic protease, an integrase and a reverse transcriptase/RNAseH.

Please add the following claims.

33. (New) An isolated and purified retrotransposon having a copy number of between 50-100 free DNA copies of itself per cell.

34. (New) A retrotransposon comprising the genetic material encoding at least one polypeptide positioned between at least two long terminal repeats, wherein the retrotransposon is present at a copy number of between 50-100 copies per cell, and wherein the copies are capable of integrating into the DNA of a host genome.